



Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

action news

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Volume 39 Number 6

1935

78 Years

2013

September 2013

Thursday, September 5, 2013, 8:00 pm *Speaker from NYC Department of Environmental Protection*

Learn About New Water and Sewer Protection Program

Refreshments will be served, Raffles, 50-50 Drawing
Holy Trinity Church Basement, Corner 87th Avenue and Commonwealth Blvd.
Next Meeting: October 3, 2013 at 8:00pm

The Gavel

Hello Bellerose,

Its official—on June 24, 2013 the long-awaited rezoning of Bellerose and Floral Park is official. The new map are posted at www.nyc.gov/dcp. As of that date our area is further protected from overdevelopment by large “McMansions,” and only single family homes can be developed in the area, except some parts west of the Cross Island Parkway near Braddock Avenue. Several projects underway or about to start have been stopped. Be aware that most of our homes in the BCCA area were underdeveloped and can be expanded somewhat, even under the new regulations, but the size and shape have been limited by the technical features of the zone. We thank Councilman Mark Weprin and Senator Tony Avella, both of whom have been tremendously helpful over the last decade or more to get this project going. We also thank our neighboring civic associations—Queens Colony, North Bellerose, Bellerose Hillside, Creedmoor, Lost Community, Queens Village and Glen Oaks Village Owners. BCCA as part of this group of civics has been working together for many years to protect our area and keep it great. Our efforts also resulted in the return of the Little Neck Parkway bus (Q36 extension), upgrade of Jericho Turnpike, etc. Those of you who attend our monthly meetings know that we are often visited by presidents of those organizations and we frequently visit their meetings.

The September meeting will feature a representative of the Department of Environmental Protection. They are responsible for water supply and sewers. We will get more information on the new water main and sewer protection program. For a monthly charge of under \$15 on your water bill you will be protected from the costs of any street-side water main or sewer break. Many of you know that these repairs can cost up to \$15,000 or more. A neighbor has already used the program and was extremely satisfied with the service and it cost nothing over the monthly charge. Come and get the details. BCCA would like to thank Gertrude Helga for handling hospitality at our meetings. She has been terrific in bringing milk, cakes and cookies, setting up for the meeting and cleaning up the kitchen, with some help from others. Due to change in work schedule, Gertrude is no longer available. We are seeking a volunteer for this important responsibility. Of course we pick up all costs and members are helpful. Please come 9/5 and let us know.

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Holy Trinity News

Last Worship on Summer hours is September 8 at 10am - We have a great day planned. Plan on joining us for worship and stay for our annual BBQ - hamburgers and hot dogs provided and bring a side to share. Additionally this year we are collecting for the Food Pantry at All Saints. They help feed 100 local families each month. Bring your donation to Holy Trinity between 11:30 am and 2pm and we will give you a grilled hot dog. Can't get food shopping or to Holy Trinity to drop off your donation - call and we will pick either food or a cash donation (checks payable to All Saints Food Pantry)

Regular Sunday services at 9:00 and 10:30 am resume on the 15th of September.

Sunday School Classes resume on the 15th. Children are dismissed from the early service for Sunday School classes. It is not too late to Join us!

Young at Heart meets the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 12:30 pm. Enjoy lunch and some social time.

Youth Club for Middle and High Schoolers meet the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 7-9:30pm. No charge - attendees decide on activities which include games, movies, talent events - chaperoned by Diane Gilroy. Questions? call the church or send an e-mail holytrinitybellerose@yahoo.com. Diane could use a few parents to occasionally help, think about helping.

Future Events: Oktoberfest, Talent Show in November

ICCC Plans Apartment Towers In Creedmoor

The Indian Cultural and Community Center (ICCC) has renewed its fight to build two nine story apartment towers immediately adjacent to the Bellerose Community near Union Turnpike. You may recall that this came up two years ago after the ICCC amassed several acres of land on a commercially zoned area previously used by Creedmoor Psychiatric Center for automobile and truck parking and maintenance. Under New York City zoning regulations residential construction is not permitted in a commercial zone. Regulations also require frontage on a city street for construction to proceed. The ICCC site does not have any frontage and is seeking a dual variance from the Board of Standards and Appeals to allow the residential construction and for the use of internal Creedmoor roadways to access the site.

ICCC's initial plans divulged to Community Board 13 and local civics called for merely a one-story community center and recreational field with parking. This initial plan was well received and embraced by the community. After several years lapse ICCC came forward with a bold plan to instead build two nine-story apartment towers in violation of existing zoning regulations and within 30 feet of the back yards of one and two story single family homes. The apartments were described as assisted living type residences for senior citizens, allowing for children to live with them. While the group stated the center would be open to all, it later came out that the group had raised money by in effect selling the future apartments to its members.

The various civic associations of Bellerose and Glen Oaks joined together in opposition to the construction of such an imposing structure so close to low rise private houses and we were successful in getting the community board and borough president to oppose it. State investigations were launched into the no-bid, less than market rate purchase price, and the project was again paused.

We have now received notice that the group is now seeking to proceed. The Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) is the authority to grant variances. BSA has scheduled a public hearing on September 10 at 10:00am at 22 Reade Street in Manhattan on both the commercial variance and the waiver for street frontage. Our civics support open, area-compatible senior housing as we did at Fr. Reader Senior Housing opposite the YMCA. But we remain adamantly opposed to a high rise development in our area.

BCCA Officers:

Lourdes Villanueva Hartrick, President
Manzoor Patoli, Vice President
Ruth Mezistrano, Recording Secretary
Richard Hellenbrecht, Corr. Sec'y /
Treasurer

Directors:

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Chris Eichler	Patricia Pearson
John Reh	Bill Turis
Michael Weisbord	George Wolf

Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Assn.
P.O. Box 260225
Bellerose, NY 11426

BCCA Introduces Social Media!

Social Media Comes To The BCCA!

Social media has become an integral part of society. It started in some form or another in the nineteen seventies and today just about everyone uses social media. From individuals to big corporations. From the young to the older. From the Pope to the President of the United States! Social media is everywhere. There are BLOGS, there is TWITTER where people can "TWEET." Yes you read that right, "TWEET" (send a message) and of course FACEBOOK. Everyone stays connected through social media these days. It is a vehicle to get information out to a large amount of people almost instantly and therefore keeping them connected and aware. Therefore, the natural progression of our civic should be to join in with this connectivity of people, and we have.

We are happy to announce that in addition to our monthly newsletter and email blasts that Richard Hellenbrecht kindly sends out, the Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association has now joined this social media revolution! At our June meeting we announced that our Civic had a new website found at www.bccaqueens.weebly.com. We are now announcing that the website also has a BLOG which anyone can subscribe to and get daily email alerts of any information posted on the blog. We are also happy to announce that the BCCA is now on Facebook and Twitter. Our Facebook page can be found at www.facebook.com/BCCAQueens and our Twitter page can be found at www.twitter.com/bccanyc. Both of these sites can be accessed through our website as well.

We hope that all BCCA members and indeed all members of our community are able to link into the BCCA through the social media of their choice. Through these forms of media you can post your comments on ideas put out by our civic and hopefully get dialogue happening on issues that affect our community. These issues can be discussed by all. Members will also be updated of any news or events before the monthly meetings. It is to be hoped that this will help to make our meetings even more successful and productive going forward.

If you are looking to join the social media scene and be a part of this great information sharing within our community but are new to it, just let us know we will be happy to assist you with joining either Facebook or Twitter and showing you how to subscribe to our blog. The process is easy and once you learn a few basics, you too will be a part of the Social Media Revolution. See you on TWITTER!

[ED Note—Our sincere thanks go out to Juan Zubizarreta who designed our new website and conceived and executed this social networking program for BCCA.]

A New Library in the Area

Glen Oaks Library Opened—The new Glen Oaks Library is now opened and the official opening ceremonies are scheduled. The following invitation comes from Queens Library:

The whole community is invited to the grand opening celebration for the new **Queens Library at Glen Oaks, 256-04 Union Turnpike**. This new award-winning library building covers 18,000 sq. ft. on three levels. Library users will love their large, bright, new library loaded with books, videos, computer workstations on every level, a sky-lit reading lounge, 24/7 exterior self-service check in and self-service check out and an outdoor program area.

CELEBRATION SCHEDULE

Tuesday, Sept. 3, 11 a.m. - RIBBON-CUTTING

Also:

Kid's Carnival

Wednesday September 4 1pm to 5pm at Glen Oaks Library

A full afternoon of programs and fun, as we welcome the children and teens of Glen Oaks to their new home-away-from-home. Admission is free.

The BCCA joins the Queens Library and everyone in the Glen Oaks area in thanking Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and New York City Council Member Mark Weprin for funding the new Queens Library at Glen Oaks.

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